



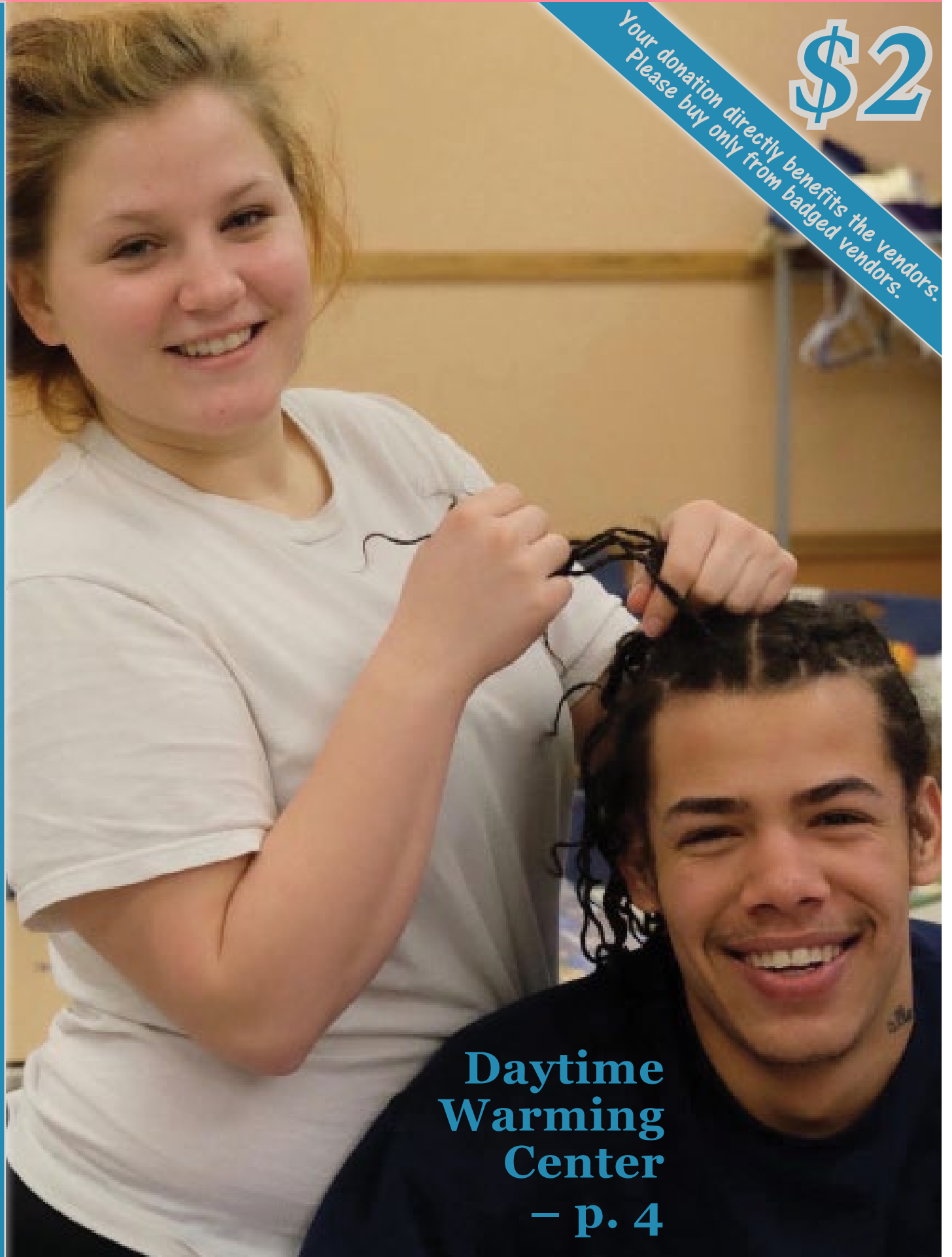
GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

FEBRUARY 2018 VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2

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Daytime
Warming
Center
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\$2

Stick with the facts and sound science when it comes to sandhill cranes



by Julie Baker
Director, Michigan
Songbird Protec-
tion Coalition

Misinformation and half-truths are the stock-in-trade for some who propose opening a hunting season on sandhill cranes in Michigan.

For example, in September, Rep. Jim Lower (R-Cedar Lake) introduced a resolution, HR 154, in support of the recreational hunting of sandhill cranes. During a House Natural Resources Committee hearing, Rep. Lower presented a slide show purportedly demonstrating that sandhill cranes are a nuisance to Michigan farmers, including a photo of birds “flocking” a tractor. But a recent USDA report had already identified that same photo to be of Eur-

asian cranes, not sandhill cranes, who were habituated to tractors used for feeding them in Israel's Hula Valley – not in Michigan, or even the United States.

The Michigan Audubon Society, National Audubon Society, Michigan Songbird Protection Coalition, Michigan Humane Society, Michigan Environmental Council, Humane Society of the United States, Attorneys for Animals and many concerned citizens and scientists registered their opposition to HR 154. But they were disregarded, and the Michigan House passed HR 154 with a cursory voice vote in October. No roll call was taken, so Michigan citizens won't know how their Representatives voted unless they contact their offices directly.

Rep. Lower and hunting lobbyists have falsely claimed that sandhill cranes need to be hunted for population control. But there is no evidence of overpopulation of this bird in Michigan. While sandhill cranes have indeed staged a comeback since being nearly hunted to extinction in the last century, they are still considered by scientists to be a genetically vulnerable species due to a fragmented population bottleneck, their slow reproductive cycle and the fact that they usually hatch only one chick per pair every breeding season.

Sandhill crane-hunting proponents have also argued that the birds have a



detrimental effect on corn crops. But they fail to mention these key points:

- Hunting sandhill cranes in the fall would not prevent temporary corn crop conflicts occurring in the spring.
- Michigan farmers can already obtain a permit to kill nuisance sandhill cranes. But in 2015, only 74 of those permits were issued in Michigan, a decrease of 13 percent from two years prior. Think about that. There are 2.4 million all-purpose acres planted with corn in our state, but only 74 permits were issued statewide to address conflicts with sandhill cranes.
- There is a more economical way to protect freshly planted corn seed. A non-toxic, non-lethal solution called

Avipel effectively deters cranes, turkeys and other species from eating the seed corn because, frankly, they don't like the bitter taste.

- Corn and waste grain are just a part of a sandhill crane's diet. They also eat pest insects and rodents, which – wait for it – damage crops.

In response to the House passage of HR 154, the unelected Michigan Natural Resources Commission could now begin the process of opening a recreational hunting season on sandhill cranes. Nature enthusiasts, birders, scientists and traditional hunters should take action to oppose this, pointing out that we already have a plethora of species that can be legally hunted without the negative backlash from opening season on a beloved bird that has been protected for 100 years in Michigan.

Yes, hunting is a time-honored tradition in our state, but so is wildlife watching. In fact, a 2016 survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service revealed that wildlife watching increased 28 percent over the previous five years, pumping nearly \$76 billion into the national economy – three times that contributed by all forms of hunting, combined.

With that in mind, maintaining protected, non-game status for sandhill cranes will continue their positive economic impact in Michigan, generated by those who would rather “shoot” the birds with a camera and enjoy them alive and well for many years to come.

Just don't try to convince us citizens otherwise by resorting to misleading photos and inconsistent statistics.

There's no retiring from love – giving matters to individuals and the world



by Susan Beckett
Publisher

Now that Groundcover News has hired an executive director and I announced my intention to eventually relinquish my role as publisher, many people have assumed that I will disappear from Groundcover News. What I think they fail to realize is that this has been a labor of love for me, not a job.

To me, it is more like the evolution of my child departing for college and a life more independent of mine. We still talk, see each other, help each other

out on occasion, but the frequency of contact and balance of power shifts. Loosening the grip is part of allowing any organism to grow. But even in relationships that have expired, love remains, if only as a memory.

Having watched others let go of organizations they led, I realize that once the transition is complete, I will need to distance myself for several months to solidify the transfer of power. Nonetheless, I intend to continue writing and proofreading during this time.

Whatever our current limitations, we can all find ways to contribute to causes that matter to us. At the University of Michigan Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium keynote speech last month, actor, author and activist Harper Hill asserted that we walk this earth to-

gether in a single garment of mutual destiny. He drove home the point that the power of change lies with us, the people, and the energy we are willing to expend.

see GIVING MATTERS, page 11

LETTER to the EDITOR

Long-term victory

Many thanks to all our November voters who passed both the human service and special education millages. Our future community will be much stronger for it.

Paul Lambert

Flyers and catchers – trapeze learning



by Rev Dr.
Martha Brunell
Groundcover
Contributor

When I was a child in upstate New York, before summer break the circus came to town annually for about a week in early June. It featured the typical trappings of entertainment under the big top.

One year we had a ferocious storm; it tore down the tent and upended everything. For hours afterwards, they were rounding up the circus animals – big circus animals – who had wandered off and ended up in people's backyards all over that part of town. In spite of such summer excitement, I never harbored a desire to run away with the circus.

Years later when my two daughters were both in elementary school, they went to circus camp at COCA, a wonderful arts program in St. Louis for children and adults. COCA periodically collaborated with the circus family at St. Louis' Circus Flora. Circus Flora is a one-ring circus based in both classical Eastern-European circus traditions and contemporary innovation.

During the COCA camp, circus pros had Amanda, Molly and the other campers tumbling, learning clowning techniques, walking a tightrope – not too far off the ground – and practicing complicated moves on ropes with a trapeze suspended from the ceiling. Campers performed with pride for their families on the last day of camp. Circus camp was a favorite week of the summer.

Certainly, one of the thrills of attending a circus is to watch those daring men and women on the flying trapeze. Every trapeze act needs the skill not only of the flyers, but also of the catchers. One flyer and then another, after considerable practice, take off into thin air because they know their catchers are there waiting for them to arrive across the expanse of air, high above the crowd. For me, a well-executed trapeze act, based not only on the proficiency but also on the trust between flyer and catcher, has much to teach us about other practiced risks that we take.

If we are about changing the status quo – insisting on justice, pursuing creative strategies in the face of enormous odds – we have to be willing to let go, to step out, and to take a chance on succeeding

or failing. Whether we tackle homelessness, healthcare, the growing diversity of our communities, the challenges of our public schools, religious intolerance, the fraying of our infrastructure, fundamental decency and respect in how we treat one another – especially those who are different from us – or any number of other vexing issues, we can't wait for everything to be just-right, certain and secure before we get started. Like the flyers in trapeze pairs, we court risk and we rely with confidence on those who are there as our catchers.

I am making an assumption that readers of Groundcover News are familiar with the thin-air experiences of getting involved and tackling critical problems or situations that will require everything you have to offer, and even threaten to overwhelm you.

Many of you are flyers. Your passion, your energy and your commitment are strengths that won't let you stay still on the platform.

At the same time that you rely on all of those, I want you to be mindful of who your catchers are. Who helps you reassess a situation and offers a course correction when your efforts don't go well? Is there someone who gets you to laugh and to see the possibilities of a new day and a fresh attempt? Invaluable are those who won't let you whine

yourself to death when it seems too hard and who remind you to back off a bit to refresh your perspective. What would you do without those who are a never-ending source of ideas concerning where the next funding might come from? And what about anyone who figures out how to tell you that who you are and what you are attempting are simply amazing?

Flyers are never the whole act all by themselves, neither trapeze flyers nor

flyers for what is just, necessary and transformative throughout the human community and on this precious and vulnerable earth. Never forget how much you trust the reliable, untiring catchers, the other half of your teams. Celebrate them. Send them a valentine. Deepen the connection that binds you for the sake of what you care about and for what you might bring into being – and allow the goodness ready now to fly and flourish through you.

Washtenaw County Meals on Wheels & Senior Café Program Presents

program locations

ann arbor

- Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels | (Home Delivered Meals) | (734) 998-6686
- Jewish Community Center | 2935 Birch Hollow | (734) 971-0990
- Pittsfield Senior Center | 701 W. Ellsworth | (734) 822-2117
- Turner Senior Wellness | 2401 Plymouth Rd., Suite C | (734) 998-9353

chelsea

- Chelsea Senior Center | 512 E. Washington | (734) 475-9242

dexter

- Dexter Senior Center | 7720 Ann Arbor Street | (734) 426-7377

milan

- Milan Seniors for Healthy Living | 45 Neckel Court | (734) 508-6229

northfield township

- Northfield Township Cmty. Ctr. | 9101 N. Main St. | (734) 449-2295

ypsilanti

- Lincoln Golden Ages Seniors | 8970 Whittaker Road | (734) 483-8366
- Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels | (Home Delivered Meals) | (734) 487-9669
- Ypsilanti Senior Center | 1015 Congress Street | (734) 483-5014
- Ypsilanti Township Cmty. Ctr. | 2025 E. Clark Rd. | (734) 544-3838

for more information, contact
Marti Lachapell at lachapellm@ewashtenaw.org

Daytime warming center an indispensable refuge from the cold

by Will Shakespeare
Groundcover Vendor #258

A few years ago, the city of Ann Arbor experienced what some community leaders and activists described as a “crisis of compassion.” The bodies of homeless individuals frozen to death were discovered in various places. City Council had hearings about the issue and the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners held a long meeting to address the crisis.

Around the same time, activists from Michigan Itinerant Shelter System Interdependent and Out of Necessity (M.I.S.S.I.O.N., or simply Mission A2) discovered that there was no daytime warming center regularly available for members of the homeless population during the winter. With the help of community organizations such as Mission A2, the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County and local churches, the daytime warming center was born.

The winter daytime warming center is funded by the Shelter Association, Washtenaw County and the City of Ann Arbor. The churches provide safe places, warm spaces and hospitality. Mission A2 coordinates supervision, volunteers and donations of food and goods.

“This funding is a lifesaver for individuals experiencing homelessness in our community looking for a warm place to go during severe cold weather,” said Dan Kelly, executive director of the Shelter Association, which is located at the Robert J. Delonis Center on the edge of downtown Ann Arbor and operates year-round.

The daytime winter warming center is housed in five area churches on a rotating basis: Journey of Faith Christian Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Mary’s Students Parish, First Congregational Church and First Baptist Church. The churches generously open their doors for people to come in from the cold and experience warmth on many levels.

“They greeted you with open arms. The church gave us a wish list on three items we needed. It was like Christmas in January,” said Karen M., a current resident of the Delonis Center. “Anything you need, from coats, boots, socks, phones, backpacks, etc. A dream come true when you are homeless!”

There is usually plenty of food, coffee, tea, cocoa, fruits, juice and pastries, and activities such as art, games, music, inter-group dialogues, conversations, meditation, poetry and literature. As Sheri Wander, program manager for the daytime warming center, explained, “We have been so lucky to have volunteers and guests bring us an abundance of good lunches and snacks. But I think it is important to remember, we cannot guarantee there will be food. Everything is based on donations.”

Carol, a St. Mary’s parishioner and church secretary, commented, “Everything runs great! The church volunteers are helpful. They have a good heart. Their sense of community is very cool. It is nice to see some faces. Even though they are not homeless, they come to see their friends.”

A key feature of the daytime warming center is the “Community Norms Agreement.” The “Norms” were developed by people who use the warming center to create a safe and welcoming place. Everyone is asked to read, initial and sign the agreement. Cooperation is requested from all participants.

On a recent visit, a guest named Steve D. offered, “It is comfortable! Sheri helps people. There is food, clothes,

games, etc. The warming center is a relaxed place. Love it!”

In addition to the daytime warming center at area churches, expanded services for homeless people this winter include an overnight warming center at the Delonis Center from 7 p.m. – 7 a.m. The facility can accommodate up to 50 people overnight in the shelter’s dining room and common areas.

The Shelter Association also expands the capacity of the overnight warming center through its Rotating Shelter Program. Nearly 20 faith-based organizations host up to 25 men each night, providing a bed at their facility for up to two weeks for each, plus transportation to and from the shelter.

“The best moments to me,” said Wander, “are when folks say that they don’t



Enjoying companionship at the daytime warming center are Eddie (front), Shaquanna and Mark. See cover for Ashlee giving Marcus a haircut there.

know who is homeless and who is a volunteer. Good! Then, we are doing something right.” Volunteers are encouraged to contact Wander at (734) 754-0648 or playfulspirit@gmail.com.

UPCOMING Daytime Warming Center locations

February 1-28, 2018

First Congregational Church
Mon., Wed. & Fri.
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
608 E. William Street
734-662-1679

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor
Tue. & Thur.
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
517 E. Washington Street
734-663-9376

March 1-16, 2018

Journey of Faith Christian Church
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
1900 Manchester Rd., Ann Arbor
734-971-4245

source: ewashtenaw.gov, 1/30/18.

Overnight Warming Center

**Shelter Association
Delonis Center**
7 p.m. - 7 a.m.
312 W. Huron St.
734-662-2829

If you are experiencing a housing crisis, please contact

**Housing Access of
Washtenaw County
(HAWC):**
(734) 961-1999
www.housingaccess.net

Do you have items to donate?

Text daytime warming center coordinator, Sheri Wander, at:
(734) 754-0648

ANN ARBOR YMCA
400 West Washington Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
www.annarborymca.org

**JOIN HERE
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At the Y, we exist to strengthen community. Together with people like you, we nurture the potential of kids, help people improve their health, and provide opportunities to support our neighbors. So join our cause. And create meaningful change not just for your family, but also for your community.

I am a beast!



by Lit Kurtz
Groundcover Vendor #159

During this month as we celebrate International Street Paper Vendor Week, I reflect on my own five-year anniversary of selling Groundcover News. I often marvel at the forces that combined to bring me to the place where I have been able to overcome so much.

Groundcover is an extraordinary

organization to be part of. First, unlike some street publications, Groundcover News is one of the street papers that allows its vendors to write for the paper as well as sell it. Secondly, we are unique in that we are staffed with Joe Woods, a small powerhouse of a salesman who guided and mentored me through my most insecure moments of selling the paper.

Along the way I found that in the absence of there being a robust system in place to help people emerge from homelessness, each individual has to call on her or his own resources to become free from its grasp. As for so many, the street paper has been my

path back to mainstream.

So, albeit in small increments, I have realized many of my goals. My wildest dreams at times were for things that housed people take for granted. Wherein I once spent nights sleeping in my car or an undisclosed space praying not to be discovered, I now sit at my hotel table when evening falls, sipping on chamomile tea. Wherein I once prayed for a shower, I soon plan to purchase a spa-type robe. Major purchases like a car and a home are on the horizon.

This half-decade has been a sabbatical of tremendous growth and sense of accomplishment for me. In 2015, I was honored at the International Street Paper Conference in Athens, Greece as a nominee for the award of Best Vendor Contribution. I could not have imagined then that writing a book would become a reality. Little did I know that working and tweaking my sales skills would earn me a second-place top seller recognition last month.

Yet, perhaps my most prodigious accomplishment came out of the blue when, somewhere along this process of writing for and selling Groundcover to survive, I began to be referred to as a “beast.” Unsure of what this slang term meant, I knew that it carried good vibes when sales manager Joe Woods used it to describe me. Watching the Golden Globes this year, I heard a

woman mention Beyoncé in the same sentence as this word. I got it. Pride swelled in me in recognition that my hard work had earned me a such a title.

So as street vendors around the world are being celebrated during the first full week of February, I am elated to be in those ranks. It gives me great satisfaction to be among the hard-working, intelligent individuals who depend on this paper not only for our livelihoods but also to bridge the huge divide between the housed and unhoused.

My life is enviable. My business allows me to meet unique people from all walks of life and from all around the world. I have met awesome members of the Ann Arbor community. Not only have I experienced one of the world’s most crippling crises, I am on the brink of emerging from it better than when I began.

Finally, this month and throughout the year while hordes of people pass me by with the rejected, averted and assuming glances still too often associated with the homeless population, I have an inner pride and strength that cannot be daunted.

I am working on my first book and pursuing other projects. I have a YouTube channel where I share my views. I am a business owner. I am one of the many beasts in this land.

Boober Tours winter pedicab report



by Kevin Spangler
Groundcover Vendor #307

Boober pedicabs are still out during the cold months. We have special canopies on the cabs to keep our valued patrons protected from the harsh environment. Boober is definitely catching on. I continually get lots of new patrons interspersed with our regulars. Your donations keep us growing and creating second-chance jobs for people in recovery.

Now that Boober has one of the best team players and pedicabbers in the world, Devin Schiller, helping with everything around the shop, I am going to turn my notes into an easy-to-follow program for the self-improvement part of Boober. It will include 100 reasons why drugs, alcohol and cigarettes are bad and 100 reasons how your life will be better without them. It will also contain a detailed goals list for visioning, etiquette, healthy diet, daily routine meditation and heavy breathing.

With the new year we are building more streamlined light box signs for our ads and using better materials than last year. We just got a people tram that will be pulled by a pedicab – a great addition for weddings.

We have been experimenting with batteries and electric motors to prepare for the people tram. It has been costly.

We are putting together a Boober concierge service for the residents of the Marriot Hotel that will then expand to the condos around town. Business has been awesome this winter. We had an extremely warm day that helped boost business even when the temperatures plunged in the following days.

The app is coming along great. We are starting with something basic then adding as we go and making improvements on a daily basis.

In December, four University of Michigan students filmed a documentary on me that won Best Documentary at the Lightworks Film Festival. I’m waiting for the final product to be released to social media and to eventually be on the Ellen DeGeneres Show. The film also was entered into a recovery film festival.

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-665-6149
Bethlehem-ucc.org facebook.com/bethlehemucca2

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



February 2018 EVENTS:

- February 1** Bethlehem Prayer Circle, 11:30-12:15
- February 5, 12, 19, 26** New Testament Class, 7:00 p.m.
- February 10** German Pretzel Sales, 10:30 – 12, \$1 or \$10 dozen
Call to pre-order at 734-665-6149
- February 11** To Have Life Abundant: Discussion on Accomplishing LGBTQ Inclusion in the Church and Community, 11:30 a.m.
- February 13** Hops & Hallelujahs, fellowship and songs at Conor O’Neils, 6-8:30
- February 14** Ash Wednesday, worship & imposition of ashes, 12 and 7 p.m.
Walk-in imposition of ashes, 6-8 a.m.
- February 15** Bethlehem Prayer Circle, 11:30-12:15
- February 23** German Pretzel Sales, 11 – 2, \$1 or \$10 dozen
Call to pre-order at 734-665-6149
- February 23** All Church Family Fun Night, 6 p.m.



Sunday Worship Times
8:30 a.m. Chapel
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. Sunday school
Coffee Connection follows each service

Homeless in college – hidden but happening

by Malinda Holmes, EMU Student Contributor

and Julia Henrikson, U-M Student Contributor and Groundcover Intern

In our cultural narrative, homelessness is something that happens to runaway youth or adults – the picture of homelessness among college students doesn't compute. But it exists, despite there being a dip in data around the issue.

Several studies in 2015 and 2016 indicated that sizable numbers of students in community colleges and public universities, and even some at private universities, struggle to pay rent and utilities, and housing insecurity among students may be as high as 50 percent. According to the Wisconsin Hope Lab, actual homelessness among community college students is 29 percent for former foster-care students and may be as high as 13 percent for the overall community college population.

Two college students of color in Washtenaw County, Shawntae Harris and Bethany C., were interviewed for Groundcover about their experiences with homelessness. Both became homeless during their undergraduate studies, and discussed the problematic invisibil-



Shawntae Harris shared with Groundcover her experiences with housing insecurity as an undergrad at the University of Michigan.

ity of homeless college students.

Shawntae moved out of her parents' home at 18 years old to escape family problems and resettled in an apartment with her then-partner. After beginning her undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan-Flint (U-M), Shawntae ended her relationship and began facing housing insecurity. Unable to return home, she lived with a friend in Wash-

ington, D.C. for two months before returning to Michigan.

Although Shawntae was able to find housing for a short period of time, she was laid off in 2008, evicted twice, and forced to return to the all-too familiar rituals of couch surfing and living in her car.

"You'll sleep anywhere when you don't have anywhere to sleep," Shawntae said.

Despite the fact that college students are more likely to be at risk of homelessness than the general population, colleges are ill-equipped to aid those experiencing homelessness. Now, as a master's student studying higher education student affairs, Shawntae has dedicated herself to helping students who are struggling.

"[When you are homeless] it is your normal, but it doesn't have to be," Shawntae

declared. She intimately understands the difficulties of poverty and hopes to channel her own story to aid those in similar circumstances.

Bethany, an undergraduate sociology student at Eastern Michigan University (EMU), faced a strikingly similar situation during her sophomore year. After breaking up with her partner, with whom she had shared an apartment, she spent four months without a home. Because of family problems and a job commitment, she was unable to return to the west side of Michigan where she grew up.

After the instability of bouncing between the homes of friends, her boss and even strangers, Bethany was faced with the sobering reality of identifying as someone experiencing homelessness. "It was only a short time but it had real consequences," she remarked.

One common and profound theme resounded throughout these two women's stories. "People assume homelessness looks a certain way... it can happen to anyone. Don't make assumptions about what it looks like," Shawntae said.

Both women were well aware of the stigma associated with poverty. "People think of homelessness as being dirty, sleeping outside, begging – which are totally valid things – but people can be homeless for so many different reasons. I'm still a person," said Bethany when asked about how being homeless influenced her identity.

Specifically, Bethany spoke about internalizing that stigma and letting her pride get in the way of asking for help or accessing resources. "I should have gone

see COLLEGE, page 11



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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Mass Schedule

Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 7 am, 8:30 am,
10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 5 pm &
7 pm (Spanish Mass)

2250 East Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor
www.StFrancisA2.com 734-821-2100

Women's March addresses gaps in opportunity, representation

by Laurie Wechter

Groundcover Human Services Director

An estimated 3,000 women and their allies gathered on the University of Michigan's central campus on January 20, 2018, as women rallied in cities across the country and world over the weekend. The rallies, attended by over one million people in this country alone, aimed to promote the continuance of initiatives that grew out of the historic first International Women's March on Washington one year ago. At that time, Women's Marches took place in cities and towns across the globe, including a march of over 11,000 in Ann Arbor.

Claire Cepuran, co-founder of Progressives at UM and co-organizer of the 2017 and 2018 rallies wrote online, "We will uphold and protect the rights of all, in a time when those rights are being called into question."

The national organizers of the 2017 march and continuing movement have embraced a concept that links sexism to racism to poverty to homelessness and so on called intersectionality. The interrelatedness of issues facing all ages and genders was apparent in the array of causes touted by the musicians and speakers at the rally.

A relevant example of these interfaces can be found in the social categorizations of people who are homeless. "Approximately half of the homeless population in this country are families with

children. Among homeless families, 90 percent are female-headed," as stated by Legal Momentum (the Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund website). When race is added to the mix, "Families of color are overrepresented in the homeless population. Nationally: 43 percent are African-American; 15 percent are Hispanic; 38 percent are White, non-Hispanic and 3 percent are Native American," according to Greendoors.org, a housing advocacy website.

"Although gender inequality in the workplace impacts all women, the way it impacts homeless women is rarely talked about," cites Legal Momentum. "The financial hardship associated with homelessness is a burden often only lifted by stable income, which usually means stable employment. But more than half of all homeless mothers do not have a high school diploma, meaning that programs that help homeless women gain job skills or more education are essential." According to Greendoors.org, "Fifty-three percent of homeless mothers do not have a high school diploma."

Facts of this kind have led Women's March groups to call for changes in government policy that equalizes the rights and opportunities of all citizens.

At Saturday's event, candidates and current political officeholders spoke in strong terms about the midterm elections in November and the necessity that women get themselves onto the ballots at all levels and get themselves to the polls. While women account

for more than 50 percent of the population, women comprise less than 20 percent of U.S. House members and 22 percent of the U.S. Senate. Women's activists find it essential that women run for office. The Las Vegas 2018 Women's March organizers started up the organization Power to the Polls to harness the energy of the marches, register new voters and engage impacted communities.

State Sen. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor, discussed the worries raised by last year's Presidential election. She added, however, that she's seen a significant difference over one short year, saying, "I'm not quite as worried as I was last year. In fact, I'm standing in front of you incredibly hopeful." She said that her hope was built on the election of minority candidates to local and state governments and on the activism she has seen all around her.

The Women's March rally in Ann Arbor was coordinated by Cepuran, and Washtenaw County Commissioner



Michelle Deatrack. Speakers included activist Michelle Elizabeth Brown; poet Zilka Joseph; Rowan Conybeare, of the U-M College Democrats; Lily Buday, of the Progressives at U-M; domestic violence survivor Nicole Beverly; state Rep. Donna Lasinski, D-Scio Township, and Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor.

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14% of our citizens
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**United Way
of Washtenaw County**



**Local Dollars are
Changing Local Lives**

A More Human Dwelling Place: Reimagining the Racialized Architecture of America

by Madeleine Jennings and Claire Nagel

U-M Law Student Contributors

The *Michigan Journal of Race & Law* presents a public symposium, "A More Human Dwelling Place: Reimagining the Racialized Architecture of America," on February 16 and 17 at the University of Michigan Law School. Symposium participants will examine five archetypal spaces in America – homes and neighborhoods, schools, courthouses, prisons and borders – and consider the ways in which these spaces have become increasingly racialized, diagnose how that racialization impedes their functioning, then reimagine these spaces at their best and our

world at large as a more-human dwelling place.

The symposium will feature 29 individuals working to better these spaces, hailing from many disciplines, including law, history, geography, literature, architecture, urban planning and visual art. Together, we hope to conceptualize forgotten or not-yet-dreamed-of alternatives. Through discussions of projects already realized and ideas not yet concrete, we will collectively inch toward the world we wish to inhabit.

Please visit [www. amorehumandwellingplace.org](http://www amorehumandwellingplace.org) to register. The symposium is free and open to the public. We hope to see you there!



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Affordable housing in Washtenaw County: A tribute to Earl Uomoto

Earl's impact on the housing movement in Ann Arbor

by Michael Appel
Former Director of Avalon Housing

Like a number of people, I met Earl in the late 1980s around housing activist efforts and continued to know Earl through Avalon Housing, where I worked for many years. I want to make sure that Earl's contributions to affordable housing in Washtenaw County are understood because it's actually a pretty cool story!

Earl was active on the Homeless Action Committee (HAC). That group of folks managed to do something very unusual in Ann Arbor: they created an organization that brought together students and townies, homeless individuals, political activists and low-income residents, and they engaged in direct action that changed local politics. Earl was among those at the very center, acting as representative, outreach person, spokesperson and more. One of the reasons he was central to this work is that he was warm and outgoing, always able to bring

people into the mission of HAC and keep his eyes on the prize of affordable housing.

HAC challenged Ann Arbor's plans to build a large parking structure at Ashley and William. That challenge – including public protests, City Council theatrics and ultimately squatting two houses – affected a mayoral and City Council campaign and changed City policy. Rather than a parking structure, six units of affordable housing have stood at William and Ashley for 25 years now. What grew out of the City's compromise with HAC to preserve those six units actually sparked the creation of the non-profit initiative, Avalon Housing. Earl was central to that wonderful legacy!

That Earl later moved into the house he helped preserve as affordable housing is exactly what our work is all about. Earl helped create affordable places for low-income residents to live in this community, enriching the community and all of us who knew

him. Earl's presence as an activist and low-income housing resident demonstrates exactly why the work of HAC and Avalon have been so valuable – as does the presence of Paul Lambert

and others who share this history with Earl. We should all remember that Earl was part of a hard-fought battle to make Washtenaw County accountable to all who wish to live here.

Remembering Earl Uomoto

by Laurie Wechter

In early December 2017, Ann Arbor lost a great leader: beloved peace, justice and housing activist Earl Uomoto. Earl was known for how many people he befriended and for how many people he helped. A memorial to Earl was held at Hathaway's Hideaway on December 16.

In memory and celebration of Earl's influence on so many lives, I spoke with and emailed individuals who knew him, including representatives from the Daytime Warming Center, *Groundcover News*, Avalon Housing, the Housing Commission, Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ), *Agenda* and The Fleetwood. Below is just a sampling of their glowingly affectionate responses.



Earl Uomoto 1953 - 2017

"Earl was in the ebbs and flows of my life. He was around the ICPJ Racial and Economic Justice Taskforce. Later, when I first got involved in work with the homeless community, there was Earl! He was passionate about economic justice."

– Sheri Wander, Mission A2

"[Earl] had your back if you needed something. He always helped out the homeless. He was a decent guy."

– Edward, warming center volunteer and friend

"In The Fleetwood, he always gave the waitresses a helping hand. I didn't know him like that, but he was always kind to customers."

– Shaquanna Mayfield, acquaintance

"Earl had quite the impact on the whole Fleetwood community. They named their kickball team, The Earls."

– Jeff Gearhart, former Agenda co-worker and friend

"Everyone knows Earl's laughter. Once he got started, it didn't take a whole lot to keep him going. Earl loved to laugh and I loved to make him laugh!"

– Ted Sylvester, former Agenda co-worker and friend



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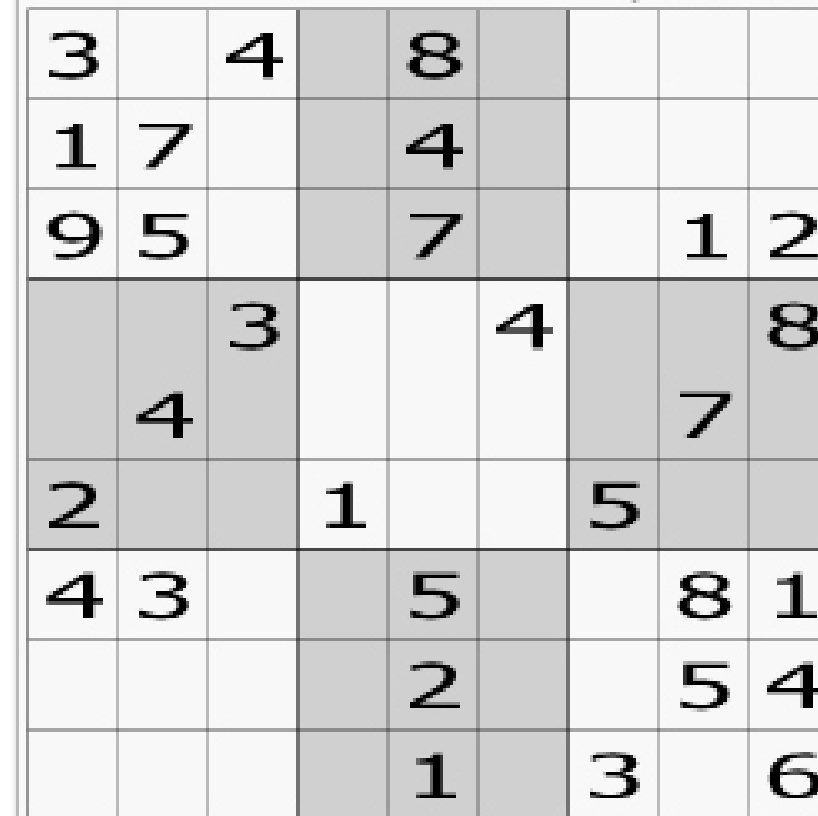
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The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$2, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News

vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
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- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

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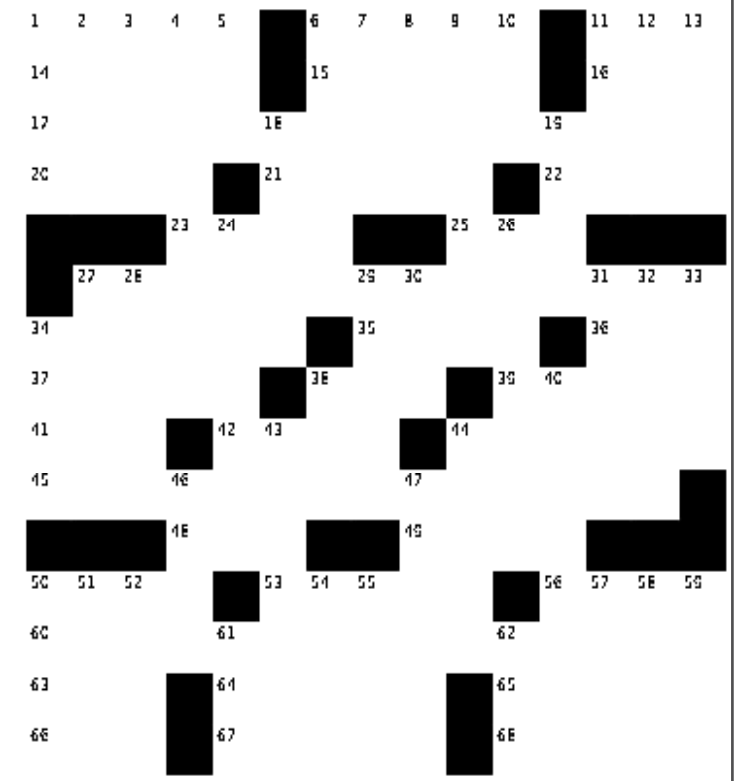
Ode to Ezra Peter A Collins

ACROSS

1. Nebraska metropolis
6. Bar mitzvah figure
11. "___ Doubtfire"
14. Dangerous household gas
15. Diamond goof
16. Stuff in a Twinkie?
17. POUND
20. Elate
21. Hospital bill list
22. North Carolina school
23. On a cruise, maybe
25. Windy City mass transit letters
27. POUND
34. Mining problem
35. Part of IHOP: Abbr.
36. "Aladdin" monkey
37. Pupil's location
38. Use a crowbar
39. Zac of "High School Musical"
41. Fire
42. Aquil, north of the border
44. Designate
45. POUND
48. Tampa sch.
49. "Casablanca" heroine
50. Word with fine or dark
53. Tin Man's request
56. Folded food
60. POUND
63. ___ Romana
64. ___ Easy to Fall in Love"
65. Slander
66. ___ Lanka
67. Organic compound
68. Basil-based sauce

DOWN

1. Spheres
2. Member of a stable family?
3. Deuce follower, on the court
4. Highly anticipated outings
5. "32 Flavors" singer DiFranco
6. Prepare leftovers
7. Circle parts
8. Very dry, as wine
9. Vichyssoise alternative
10. Verb type: Abbr.
11. It helps one choose sides?
12. Wine holder
13. Eye woe
18. Beer mug
19. Dutch cheese
24. Some baskets
26. Singing and dancing, for two
27. Islamic equivalent of kosher
28. Donald's ex
29. Personnel director, at times
30. "___ volunteers?"
31. "West Side Story" number
32. Black piano key material
33. Litter critter
34. Letters on a Soviet rocket, once
38. Expert
40. Temporarily
43. Struggles
44. Tons
46. Swear, informally
47. Shoot at
50. They blast rock
51. Caboose's place
52. Roll down the runway
54. Superlative ending for funk or spunk
55. Misplace
57. Many years
58. Chew the fat
59. Another, in Acapulco
61. One might be hung in the middle of a street
62. Sixth sense, briefly



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The Other America – U-M conference gets real on racial inequality

by Holly Kilbourn

U-M Student Contributor and
Groundcover Social Work Intern

On January 19, the conference “The Other America: Still Separate, Still Unequal” was convened by Hakeem J. Jefferson and Steven Moore, Political Science Ph.D. candidates at the University of Michigan. The Rogel Ballroom in the Michigan Union buzzed with activity as over 300 attendees participated in portions of the mini-conference.

The conference focused on racial inequality throughout the history of America and on how it still exists today. Panel topics included “Criminal Justice and State Violence against Blacks in the United States,” “Economic Inequality and Immobility” and “Inequality in Urban Spaces.”

“I want to highlight that these types of conferences don’t happen in institutions,” said Megan Ming Francis, professor of Political Science at the University of Washington, who was one of the conference panelists. “I have never been invited to a conference with more than one scholar by a group of black graduate students. In so many ways I think this conference is history-making.”

In looking at the history of African Americans in America and the racial

violence imposed on them through the criminal justice system, Francis made a rallying call for the future of America: “This is the idea that before we can fight for other rights, such as education and voting, we first need to fight for the African American to live free from state violence.”

While this mini-conference involved many members of academia, event organizer Jefferson stated that it was hosted in recognition of “those who live on the margins.”

Panelist Andrea Ritchie, attorney and activist at the Barnard Center for Research on Women, firmly stated, “The war on drugs is waged on the bodies of black women through sexual violence.” A number of cases have come to light within recent years of African-American women being targeted through “stop and frisk” measures. This includes dumping a women’s purse in front of the public – exposing any feminine hygiene products, medication and other personal items. Another example Ritchie gave was a woman who was stripped down in public by police and sexually harassed.

This violence from law enforcement institutions entwines with the economic well-being of African Americans.

Becky Pettit, Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas, stated that in

2012, young black men between 20-34 years of age who had less than a high school diploma were more likely to be incarcerated than employed.

Much of this mini-conference spoke to the strength of intersectionality and how racial inequality affects African Americans on all levels of society. In this way, racial inequality affects a black woman differently than a black man, or a wealthy black man differently than a low-income black man. Intersectionality can help highlight areas of oppression and privilege in our lives.

Several solutions addressing wealth inequality were offered by Darrick Hamilton, Associate Professor of Economics and Urban Policy at the New School. They included trust funds for everyone, federalized credit scores, employment audits from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, eliminating tracking in grade schools and removing the individual financial burden in both education and healthcare.

Mark Rosenbaum, Director of Public Counsel’s Opportunity Under Law project, stated, “Public education, too often in this society, has become the great divider.” Quality education is fueled by the amount of finances available to be invested in it. School districts with lower-income residents often experience a

lack of public education funding, which affects their ability to replace textbooks, offer extracurricular activities and invest in educational outcomes of youth.

Many of the panelists discussed the need for revolution – whether it be cultural, psychological or through policy development. Every panelist seemed to agree that such a revolution will come, one way or another. These conversations are not new; racial inequality is not new and each panelist hoped that the conversation about it will only grow louder and more frequent.

As someone who is writing this article from a place of white privilege, my words ultimately don’t matter. The voices that matter are the ones who have been marginalized to the point where they feel they have no voice for change.

Francis was right: in my experience, these kinds of conferences don’t happen. It was beautiful to see African-American students organize a conference with mainly African-American speakers and use it to educate the community. It fell nicely within the week’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations and was an excellent overture to Black History Month (February).

A video of the complete event is available online: youtu.be/zX5rwxgGbc.

Vendor Week sneak peek

by Susan Beckett

We will once again celebrate locally during **International Street Paper Vendor Week, February 5-11**. During this time you might see local luminaries out hawking Groundcover alongside some of our usual vendors. You might also spot balloons flying above our vendors’ heads, or people stopping by to give them something special.

We are excited that our **Celebrity Guest Vendors** this year will include newcomers State Representative Adam Zemke, Shelter Association of Washtenaw County Executive Director Dan Kelly, Zingerman’s co-founder Ari Weinzwieg and returning guest vendor Mayor Christopher Taylor. These are great opportunities for our vendors and the public to get to know them as people. Zemke will kick off the week selling at noon on Monday,

February 5. The fun continues with Mayor Taylor at 5:30 p.m. Late Saturday morning, Zingerman’s co-founder Ari Weinzwieg will help close out the week in the area near the People’s Food Co-op. For exact times, locations and the schedules of our other celebrities, follow us on Facebook (search for Groundcover News) and Twitter (our handle is [@groundcovernews](https://twitter.com/groundcovernews)).

Some generous donors are subsidizing our vendors’ purchases so they will get their February issues of Groundcover at half price during Vendor Week (they will pay 25 cents per copy instead of the usual 50 cents). You can participate, too. If you see us out there, take a photo, post it on social media and tag us – we are *groundcovernews* on Instagram. Do something special for your vendor – let her or him know that you appreciate their steady presence.



Mayor Christopher Taylor will once again hit the streets with Groundcover vendors during Vendor Appreciation Week. Look also for Zingerman’s co-founder Ari Weinzwieg, State Rep. Adam Zemke, former Ypsilanti City Council member Anne Brown and Delonis Director Dan Kelly.

Giving matters

continued from page 2

According to Hill, Rev. Dr. King was an agitator whose invitation was, “Follow me. Now, let’s go get arrested!”

Hill’s question to us is, “What are you willing to get arrested for?”

Hill chided that we have exerted too little energy, certainly not enough to counter the big problems facing us. He compared our collective power to potential energy that needs to be converted to kinetic energy – in other words, action. And, he promised that as we raise our vibration, those around us will raise theirs, as well.

Just as we build muscle mass by gradually increasing the weights we lift, we

grow our energy by steadily increasing our output. I invite you to take steps in that direction this month.

This Valentine’s Day, just pick someone and treat it as a random act of kindness to give them a present or take them out to eat. International Street Paper Vendor Appreciation Week (February 5-11) provides opportunities for you to take on a little extra to show Groundcover vendors some recognition. Provide a treat, share a meal, reveal how seeing them enriches your life or brightens your day. It’s a small step but one that empowers both giver and receiver. Then take that energy and use it to take a slightly bigger step. Continue until you recognize that you are making signifi-

cant contributions in a cause that matters to you.

To quote George Bernard Shaw, “I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. Life is no ‘brief candle’ to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to the future generations.”

Homeless in college

continued from page 6

to a food bank or shelter but I didn’t because of my pride. I want people to realize that you shouldn’t be ashamed to use a food pantry. [Homelessness] wasn’t something I did to myself. People don’t intentionally become homeless. It was a situation I never, ever would have expected myself to be in.”

In her book *Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America*, Linda Tirado explains, “Because our lives seem so unstable, poor people are often seen as

being basically incompetent at managing their lives. That is, it’s assumed that we’re not unstable because we’re poor, we’re poor because we’re unstable.”

As Tirado understands, there is a pervasive attitude that people are poor as a result of their own decisions – not their circumstances – and that they can simply “pull themselves up from their bootstraps.” However, as both Bethany’s and Shawntae’s life trajectories demonstrate, homelessness is not necessarily a result of poor choices, but more

likely a compounding of unfortunate circumstances and a lack of resources for those facing poverty.

As we take action to end homelessness and poverty, it is important that the work include educating people about the causes of poverty and eradicating the shame surrounding it.

Ignorance concerning homelessness on college campuses still prevails, but there have been efforts to mitigate its effects at nearby universities. Maize & Blue Cupboard at U-M works towards two goals: providing food for those in need on campus, and reducing food waste. Sourcing their food from Food Gatherers, the student organization opens its doors to students to increase food stability and decrease shame. Similarly, EMU has the Swoop’s Student Food Pantry, as well as the MAGIC (Mentorship Access Guidance In College) Program, which assists students who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness.

The changing face of homelessness on and off campus will require society to ante up in two mutually dependent ways: increasing public awareness of the struggles of those living on the

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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economic edge, and improving access to critical resources. Communities need to empower economically struggling people regardless of their situation, giving them both the support and the space for self-determination. As Bethany said, “Support homeless people and don’t try to change their life story. Just give them what they need.”

Housing-insecure college students under the age of 21 can call Ozone House for support at (734) 662-2222. Ozone House partners with the EMU MAGIC program and the WCC REACH program to provide support services. U-M’s Blavin Scholars program supports those aging out of foster care.

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February 5-11

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Green salad with apples, cranberries and pepitas

by Elizabeth Bauman
Groundcover Contributor

Ingredients:

Salad

5 cups spring mix greens
1 large Granny Smith apple, chopped
1/2 cup dried cranberries
1/3 cup pepitas (green pumpkin seeds)
2 to 3 ounces chilled and crumbled goat cheese

Dressing

1/4 cup olive oil

1½ tablespoons apple cider vinegar

1½ teaspoon honey

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

Directions:

Toast the pepitas and allow to cool.

Whisk the dressing ingredients together in small mixing bowl. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Just before serving, add greens to bowl and top with apple, cranberries and pepitas. Add the goat cheese and just enough salad dressing to lightly coat the greens. Gently toss to mix and serve immediately.

A delicious winter salad!

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